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Slots? No. Poker? Yes.

Prince George's County Reverse Position on Gambling

By [Sharon Donnell](#) | Friday, Mar 12, 2010 | Updated 1:32 PM EDT



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A [Maryland](#) county that opposed slots could be getting into the casino business instead.

A commercial license for a casino at the Rosecroft Raceway in Prince George's County would be issued under a bill proposed by Maryland State [Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.](#) (D-Prince George's and Calvert counties), [the Washington Examiner reported](#). If passed, the bill would make Prince George's the first county in Maryland to offer casino games such as blackjack, poker and baccarat.

"We're not talking about a casino, we're just talking about a card game," Miller, whose family built Rosecroft in the 1940s, told the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on Thursday. "We should have moved forward on this six years ago. Everybody here knows that, and we didn't for the wrong reasons," he said.

Table games are currently illegal in Maryland. State residents approved 15,000 slot machines at five sites in 2007. None of the sites has opened. All of them are outside Prince George's because of opposition from county lawmakers.

"Frankly I do not support slots," said Sen. C. Anthony Muse, D-Prince George's, who is co-sponsoring the bill with Miller. "But people have spoken overwhelmingly in [Prince George's County](#) and -- to the extent of 62 percent -- have said gaming of some sort is how we choose to spend our entertainment dollars."

Muse said casino games would preserve 200 jobs -- as well as add 400 positions -- to the bankrupt track in his district, [the Examiner reported](#). The Innovation Group estimated table games would bring as many as 1,500 jobs to the area.

If casino gambling does come to Prince George's County, Rosecroft could soon have some local competition. [According to the Examiner](#), Sen. Donald F. Munson, R-Washington County, suggested expanding Miller's bill to allow for more licenses elsewhere.

"If we can do it in Prince George's County, why not in the rest of state?"

Rosecroft is about a mile from the National Harbor complex and 14 miles from the White House.

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